

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Transportation



February 2, 2021

Chairperson Jeri Epstein

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A
c/o West End Library
2301 L Street NW
Washington, DC 20037
Via Email: 2A06@anc.dc.gov

NOI# 21-01-PSD

Re: Virginia Ave NW Protected Bike Lane

Dear Chairperson Epstein,

Pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Amendment Act of 2000” D.C. LAW 13-249 (48 DCR 3491 April 20, 2001), the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is required to give a written notice of our intent (NOI) to modify traffic and/or parking requirements. This letter is being forwarded to you for the purpose of notification and solicitation of comments on our intent to implement the following in your jurisdiction:

Installation of protected bike lanes on Virginia Ave NW from Constitution Ave NW to Rock Creek Trail

BACKGROUND

Protected bike lanes on Virginia Ave NW have been part of strategic planning efforts for many years and will help close a gap in the regional bikeway network. When the project is complete, people on bikes will have a safer connection from Rock Creek Trail, Theodore Roosevelt Bridge/I-66 trail, Capital Crescent Trail and National Mall to Downtown where they can utilize the existing bikeways as well as planned facilities on 20th St, 21st St, G St and Pennsylvania Ave NW. Virginia Ave NW is currently a “signed route” according to the 2019 Washington Bike Map and it has been identified as a future bike route in numerous plans and studies including, 2005 Bicycle Master Plan¹, 2014 MoveDC long range statewide transportation plan², and the 2016

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https://ddot.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddot/publication/attachments/bicycle_master_plan_2005_proposed_bicycle_facilities_map_0.pdf

² http://www.wemovedc.org/resources/Final/Part%202_Plan_Elements/Bicycle.pdf

Royal Netherlands Embassy’s “ThinkBike” workshop. More information about the project is available online at: <https://wiki.ddot.dc.gov/display/BPP/Virginia+Avenue+NW>

PROPOSED ACTION

DDOT is proposing to construct a two-way protected bike lane along the southeast-bound right travel lane from Rock Creek Pkwy to G St NW that transitions to center-running for the rest of the corridor. See Figure 1 for examples of protected bike lanes elsewhere in the District.



Figure 1: Examples of two-way protected bike lanes in Washington, DC. Irving St NW (left) and Brentwood Pkwy NE (right)

Effects on Parking and Traffic Operations

For most of the corridor, the two-way protected bike lane will replace a full-time vehicular travel lane and will not have a substantial effect on curbside uses such as parking, street vendors (food trucks), and bus zones. Based on the volume of traffic before the start of the Covid-19 health emergency, traffic levels were far below the capacity of Virginia Ave NW, even during morning and evening peak travel periods. In addition to the lane reduction, two traffic signals will be added at G St NW and the E Street Expressway Ramp and left turns will be prohibited on southbound New Hampshire Ave NW (more detail in sections below). This facility was designed to preserve efficient vehicle operations through this corridor and is not expected to cause significant delay for vehicular traffic. There will be no interference to bus zones, commercial loading, or street vendors in the corridor.

Parking will be added or repurposed to serve as a travel lane, MetroBus zone, or Cycle track in several locations through the corridor (see Figure 2). In total, there are currently 153 on-street parking spaces in the corridor and there will be 149 after completion of the project.

Proposed Condition: Rock Creek Park Trail to New Hampshire Ave NW

On the north end of Virginia Avenue, the project will begin where Virginia Avenue NW intersects Rock Creek and Potomac Pkwy and the Rock Creek Park Trail. It will cross Rock Creek and Potomac Pkwy in the existing crosswalk and the sidewalk will be widened across the slip lane island to accommodate bicyclists. The protected bike lane will begin where the existing slip lane enters the roadway from Rock Creek and Potomac Pkwy NW. The protected bike lane will continue in the rightmost southeast bound travel lane until G St NW. To reduce the conflicts between bicycles, left turns will be prohibited from westbound Virginia Ave NW onto New Hampshire Ave NW. Instead, drivers will be required to enter Juarez Circle to the right, then proceed across Virginia Ave NW with the signal. The protected bike lane will not affect the service lane in front of the Watergate complex. Figures 3, 4, and 5 show the typical existing and proposed condition for this segment of the roadway.

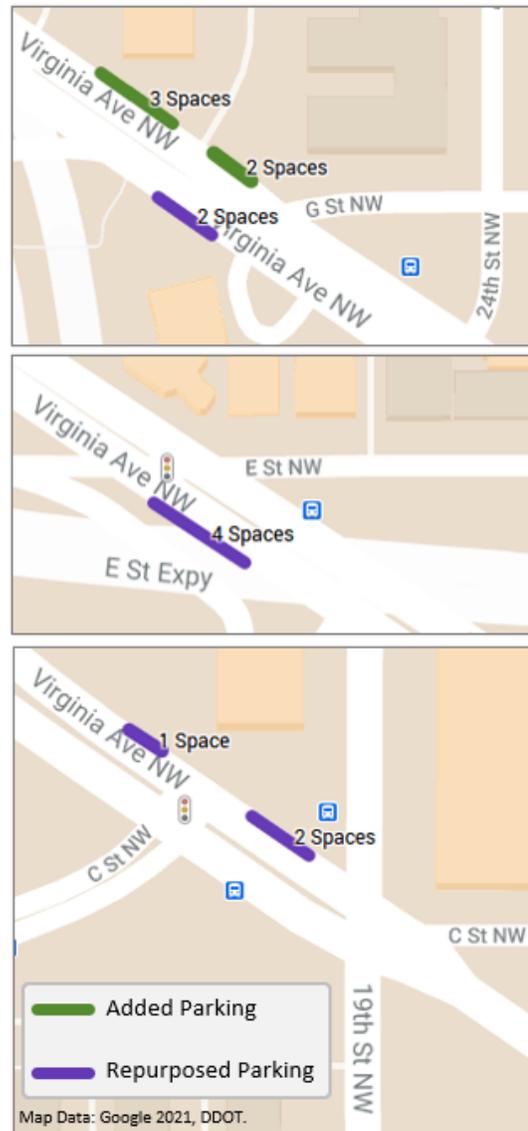


Figure 2: Locations where space for parking is proposed to be added or repurposed.

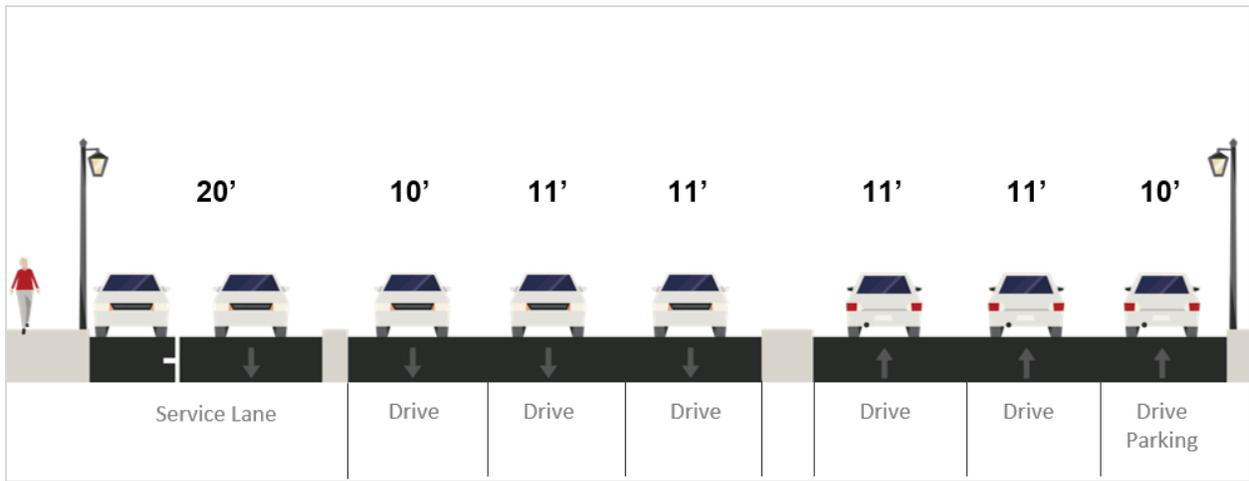


Figure 3: Typical section, **existing** condition, Rock Creek Trail to New Hampshire Ave NW

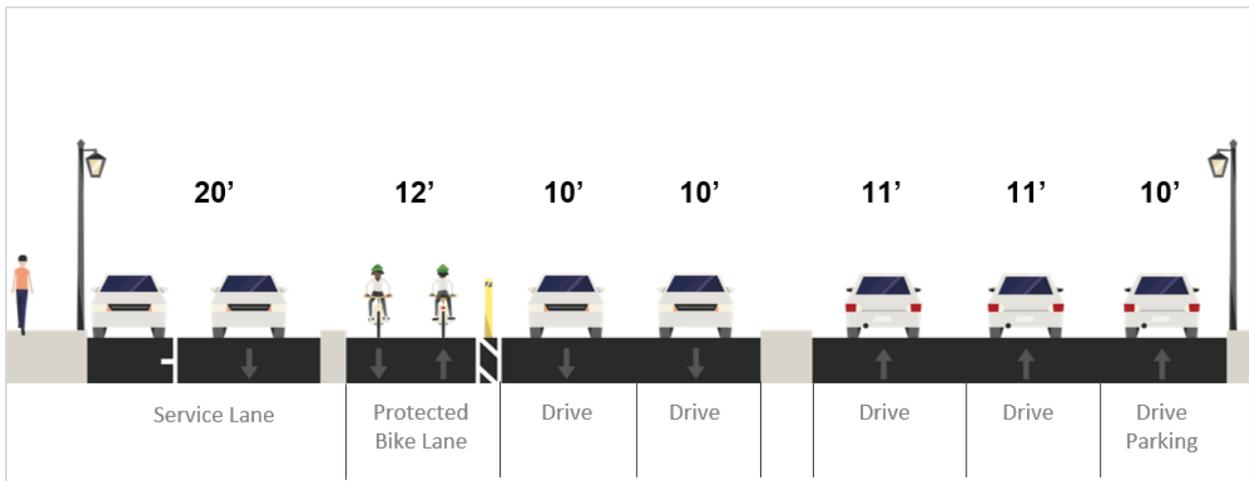


Figure 4: Typical section, **proposed** condition, New Hampshire Ave NW to G St NW

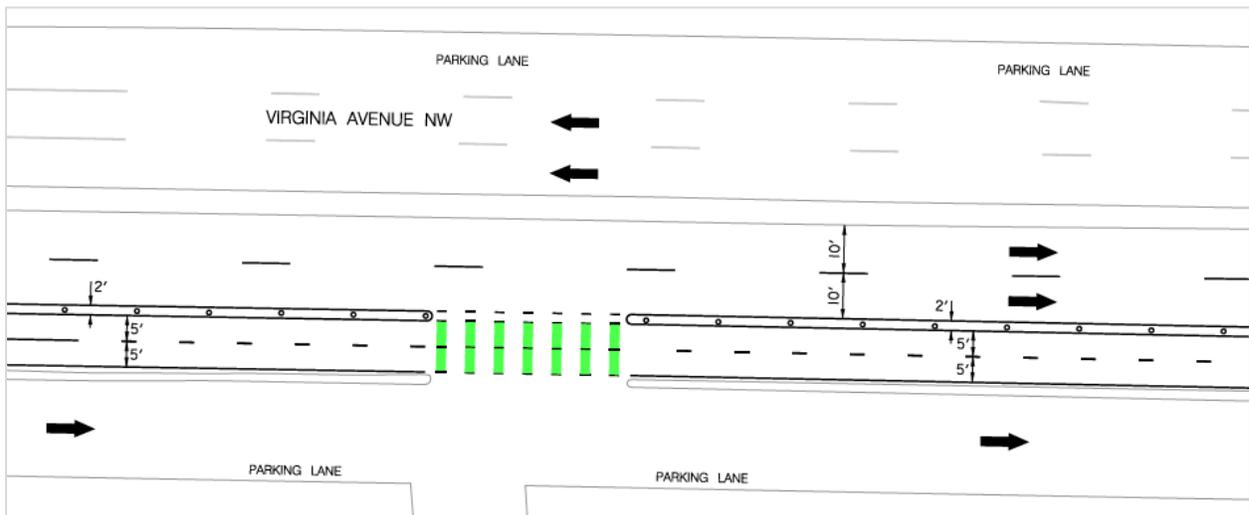


Figure 5: Typical plan view, **proposed** condition, Rock Creek Park Trail to New Hampshire Ave NW

Proposed Condition: New Hampshire Ave NW to G St NW

Virginia Ave NW from New Hampshire Ave NW to G St NW will have a different section view from the previous segment because the service lane ends at Juarez Circle. At G St NW the protected bike lane will move to the center of the roadway to avoid disruption and interference

with turn lanes and parking on approaches to 23rd St NW. It will also connect with the G St NW protected bike lanes and a signal will be installed to provide a phase when people walking and bicycling can safely cross Virginia Ave NW. Figures 6, 7, and 8 show the typical existing and proposed condition for this segment of the roadway.

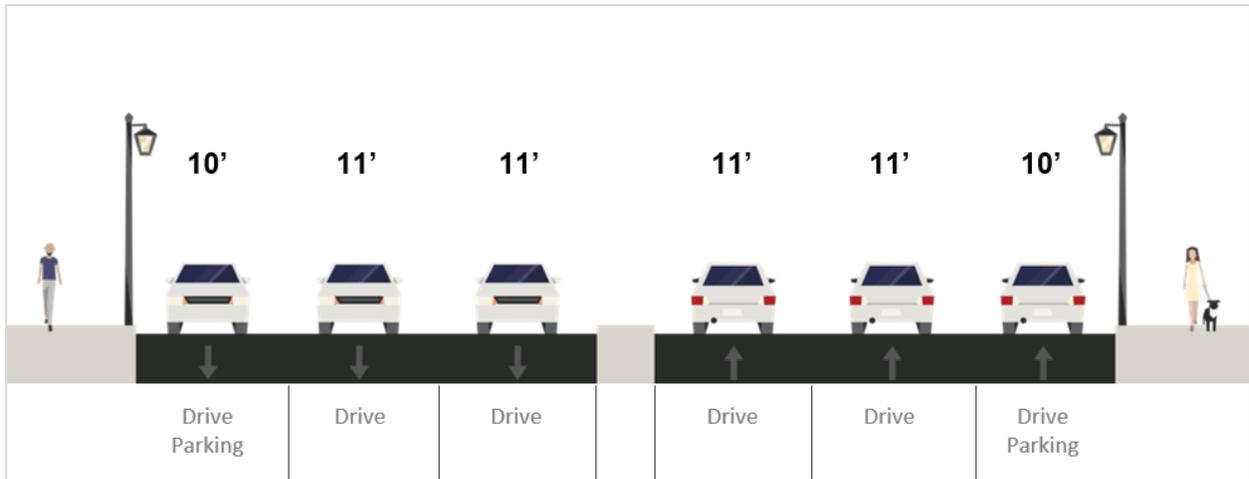


Figure 6: Typical section, **existing** condition, New Hampshire Ave NW to G St NW.

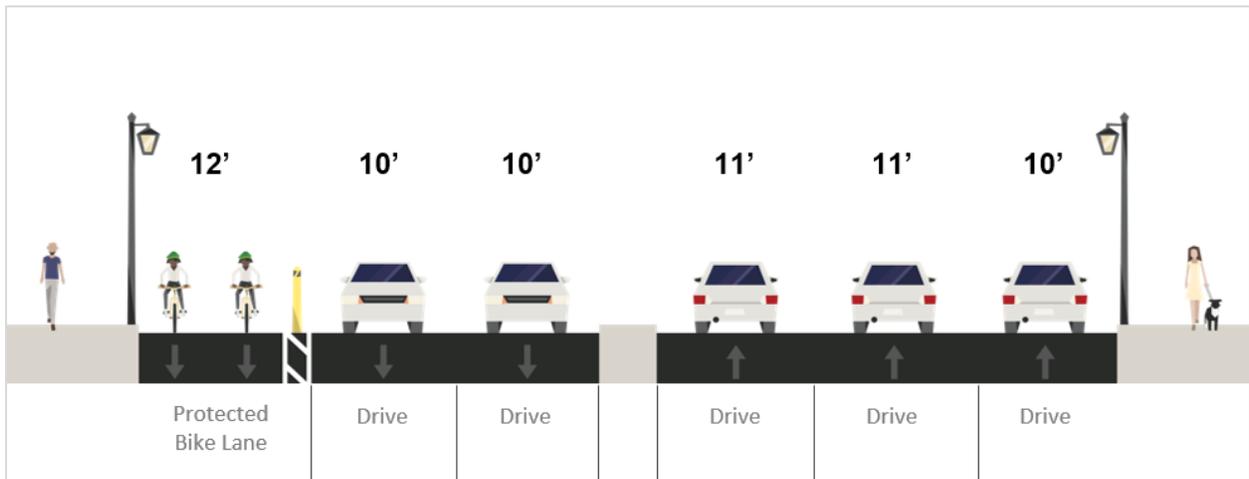


Figure 7: Typical section view, **proposed** condition; New Hampshire Ave NW to G St NW

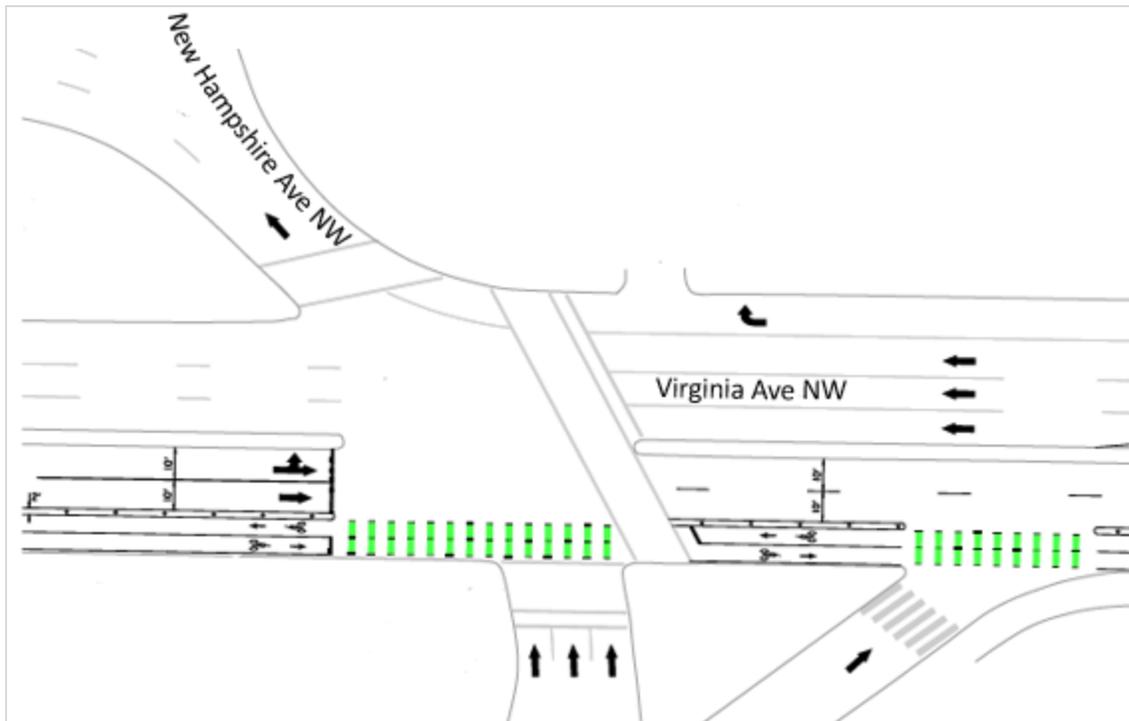


Figure 8: Typical plan view, **proposed** condition, New Hampshire Ave NW to G St NW.

Proposed Condition: G St NW to 18th St NW

Beginning at G St NW, the protected bike lane will move to the center of the roadway and continue in this configuration until it reaches 18th St NW. This will require that the bike lane travel through the underpass, where one travel lane in each direction will be repurposed for the protected bike lane. As the protected bike lane proceeds southeast, the two directional lanes will remain adjacent to one another and separated from general traffic on both sides by either the existing median or a combination of flex posts and concrete wheel stops. A signal will be added at the intersection with the E St Expressway Ramp NW. Figures 9, 10, and 11 show the typical existing and proposed condition for this segment of the roadway.

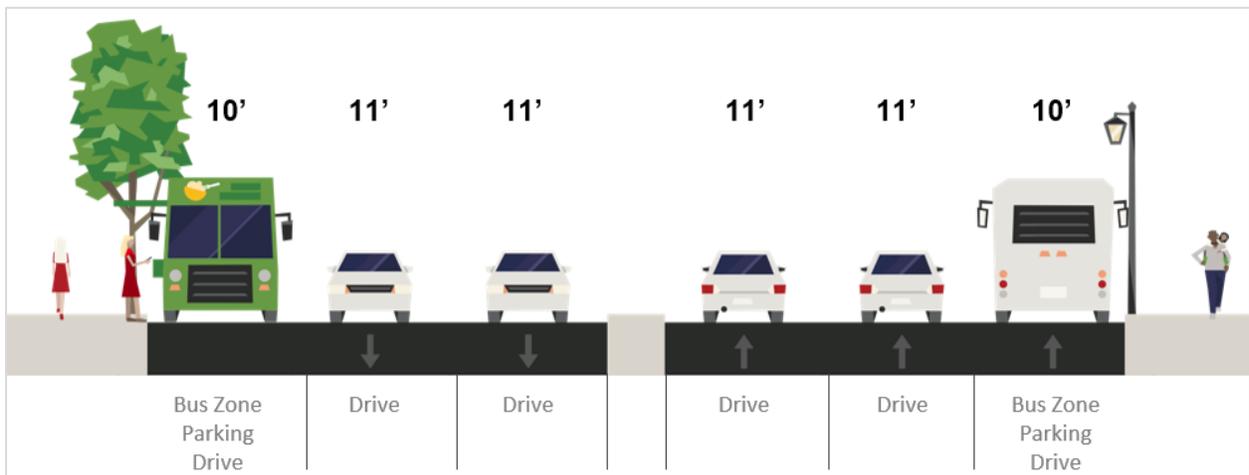


Figure 9: Typical section view, **existing** condition, G St NW to 18th St NW.

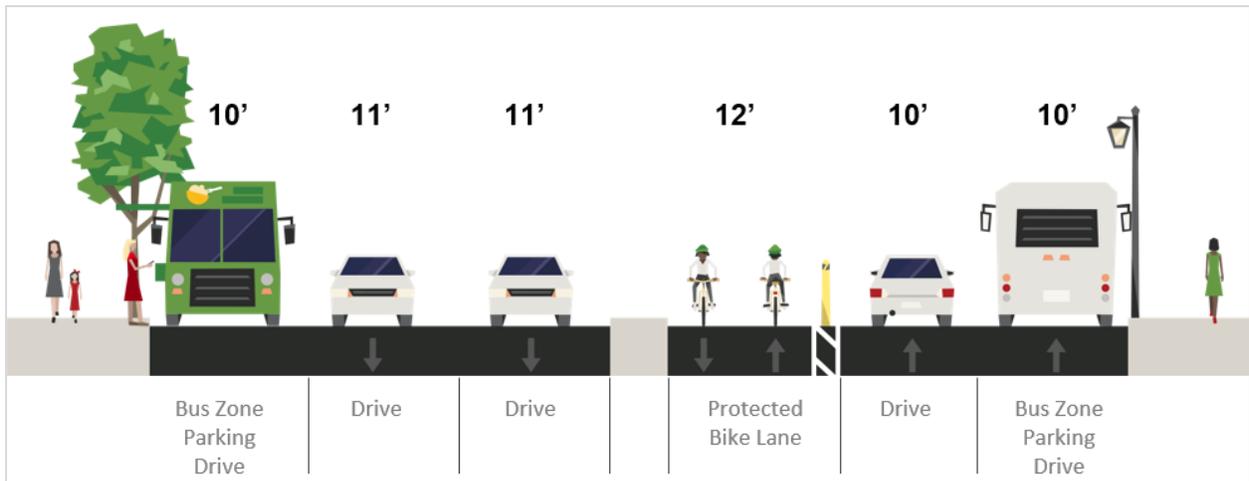


Figure 10: Typical section view, **proposed** condition, G St NW to 18th St NW. Note: the protected bike lane will be center-running through this section of the corridor, but it will not always be on the same side of the median.



Figure 11: Typical plan view, **proposed** condition, G St NW to 18th St NW.

18th St NW from Virginia Ave NW to Constitution Ave NW

The final segment of the protected bike lane will be on the west side of 18th St NW from Virginia Ave NW to Constitution Ave NW. It will there connect to the national mall on a crosswalk that is to be constructed as part of a separate project before the bike lane is constructed. Figure 12 show the typical proposed condition for this segment of the roadway.

Project Benefits

DDOT anticipates the following benefits:

- A safer route for people riding bikes or scooters
- A contiguous and safe facility designed for users of all ages
- Reduction of conflicts between people driving and people riding bikes or scooters.

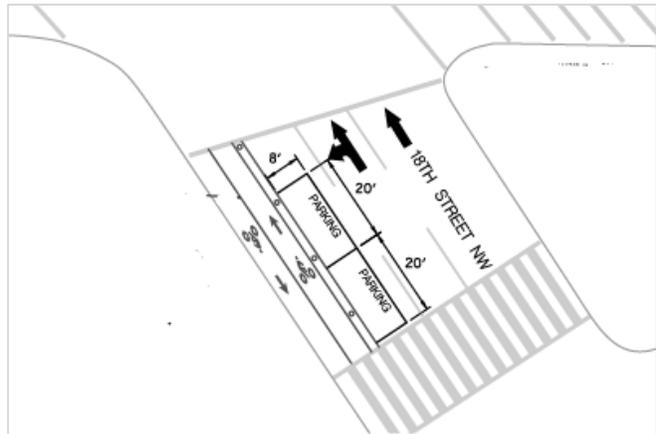


Figure 12: Typical plan view; **proposed** condition; 18th St NW from Virginia Ave NW to Constitution Ave NW.

COMMENTS

All comments on this subject matter must be filed in writing by Thursday April 15th, 2021, with the District Department of Transportation, Planning and Sustainability Division, 55 M Street, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003 or via email at kevin.harrison@dc.gov. If you would like to check the status of this Notice of Intent (NOI), please visit DDOT's website at <http://ddot.dc.gov/DC/DDOT/Services/Notice+of+Intent> If you are having any trouble accessing the NOI site or are unable to do so, please contact the DDOT Customer Service Clearinghouse at 202-671-2800.

Sincerely,

Kevin Harrison
Transportation Planner
Planning and Sustainability Division
District Department of Transportation

Cc:

Yannik Omictin, ANC Commissioner, 2A01
Donna Barbisch, ANC Commissioner, 2A04
Evelyn Hudson, ANC Commissioner, 2A05
Adam Friend, ANC Commissioner, 2A07
Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council of the District of Columbia
Brian Romanowski, Constituent Services Coordinator for Councilmember Pinto
Anna Noakes, Ward 2 Liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services
Joseph Florio, Ward 2 Liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services
Andrew DeFrank, Ward 2 Community Engagement Specialist, DDOT

Language Access Statement

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, its projects, programs, activities, and services on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act and other related statutes. In accordance with the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977, as amended, D.C. Official Code sec. 2-1401.01 et seq. (Act), the District of Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, status as a victim of an intrafamily offense, or place of residence or business. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination which is prohibited by the Act. In addition, harassment based on any of the above protected categories is prohibited by the Act. Discrimination in a violation of the Act will not be tolerated. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action.

If you need special accommodations or language assistance services (translation or interpretation) please contact Cesar Barreto at 202-671-2829 or Cesar.Barreto@dc.gov.

If you need language assistance services (translation or interpretation), please contact Karen Randolph at 202-671-2620 or Karen.Randolph@dc.gov.

AYUDA EN SU IDIOMA

Si necesita ayuda en Español, por favor llame al 202-671-2700 para proporcionarle un intérprete de manera gratuita.

AVISO IMPORTANTE

Este documento contiene información importante. Si necesita ayuda en Español o si tiene alguna pregunta sobre este aviso, por favor llame al 202-671-2620. Infórmele al representante de atención al cliente el idioma que habla para que le proporcione un intérprete sin costo para usted. Gracias.

AIDE LINGUISTIQUE

Si vous avez besoin d'aide en Français appelez-le 202-671-2700 et l'assistance d'un interprète vous sera fournie gratuitement.

AVIS IMPORTANT

Ce document contient des informations importantes. Si vous avez besoin d'aide en Français ou si vous avez des questions au sujet du présent avis, veuillez appeler le 202-671-2700. Dites au représentant de service quelle langue vous parlez et l'assistance d'un interprète vous sera fournie gratuitement. Merci.

GIÚP ĐỠ VỀ NGÔN NGỮ

Nếu quý vị cần giúp đỡ về tiếng Việt, xin gọi 202-671-2700 để chúng tôi thu xếp có thông dịch viên đến giúp quý vị miễn phí.

THÔNG BÁO QUAN TRỌNG

Tài liệu này có nhiều thông tin quan trọng. Nếu quý vị cần giúp đỡ về tiếng Việt, hoặc có thắc mắc về thông báo này, xin gọi 202-671-2700. Nói với người trả lời điện thoại là quý vị muốn nói chuyện bằng tiếng Việt để chúng tôi thu xếp có thông dịch viên đến giúp quý vị mà không tốn đồng nào. Xin cảm ơn.

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언어 지원

한국어로 언어 지원이 필요하신 경우 202-671-2700로 연락을 주시면 무료로 통역이 제공됩니다.

안내

이 안내문은 중요한 내용을 담고 있습니다. 한국어로 언어 지원이 필요하시거나 질문이 있으실 경우 202-671-2700 로 연락을 주십시오. 필요하신 경우, 고객 서비스 담당원에게 지원 받고자 하는 언어를 알려주시면, 무료로 통역 서비스가 제공됩니다. 감사합니다.

語言協助

如果您需要用（中文）接受幫助，請電洽202-671-2700，將免費向您提供口譯員服務

重要通知

本文件包含重要資訊。如果您需要用（中文）接受幫助或者對本通知有疑問，請電洽202-671-2700。請告訴客戶服務部代表您所說的語言，會免費向您提供口譯員服務。謝謝！